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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/910,653	07/19/2001	Daniel E. E. Hayes JR.	HAYES-4	2622

7590 07/30/2002
Pandiscio & Pandiscio
470 Totten Pond Road
Waltham, MA 02451-1914

EXAMINER

PELLEGRINO, BRIAN E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3738

DATE MAILED: 07/30/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/910,653

Applicant(s)

HAYES ET AL.

Examiner

Brian E Pellegrino

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 July 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☒ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Oath/Declaration

It does not identify the US application for patent on which priority is claimed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.78, by specifying the *application number*.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters "90" and "87" have both been used to designate the metal that engages the polyethylene liner **35**. Fig. 2 shows "90" as an outer surface which definitely would not contact the liner **35**. However, it is noted that Fig. 3 shows "90" as inner layer that would engage the liner. Fig. 2 seems to be in contradiction with Fig. 3. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the specification does not identify the US application number on which applicant is claiming the benefit of the earlier filing date.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

Claims 1-3, 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lopez et al. (5938702). Fig. 1 shows an acetabular component having a metal base **12** of two different metals, the first metal is a titanium coating **29**, col. 4, lines 20-21, and the second metal is a titanium *alloy* (col. 2, lines 4-6). With respect to claim 6, Lopez discloses the first metal enhances bone ingrowth, col. 4, lines 21-23.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,4,5,7,8,11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen et al. (6087553) in view of Lopez et al. '702. Cohen et al. disclose an acetabular component with an outer metal shell having a porous coating thereon and an inner polyethylene bearing. Cohen also discloses the metal for the shell can be a cobalt alloy, col. 5, lines 34-36 or tantalum (col. 6, lines 5-7). However, Cohen does not disclose that the porous coating is a *metal* coating. Lopez et al. teach that a metal

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coating can be applied on the surface of the acetabular shell, see Lopez explained above. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a metal coating as taught by Lopez with the implant of Cohen in order to provide a more radiopaque or image detectable prosthesis.

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lopez et al. '702 in view of Bateman et al. (5879404). Lopez is explained supra. However, does not disclose the use of steel or zirconium alloys as a material for an acetabular component. Bateman teaches the use of metal and polyethylene components for parts of the prosthesis, col. 5, lines 18-21. Bateman also teaches that metals such as steel and zirconium alloys are used in making an acetabular component, col. 3, lines 7-11. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to substitute steel or zirconium alloys as taught by Bateman in the implant of Lopez in order to provide a harder metal base for greater strength.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Burnstein (6368354) discloses an acetabular prosthesis having an outer shell with two layers of metal and an inner polymer layer.

JP(4303443) teaches an outer metal shell and a polyethylene layer for a hip joint.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Pellegrino whose telephone number is (703) 306-5899. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 9am to 6:30pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott, can be reached at (703) 308-2111. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-2708.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0858.

Brian E. Pellegrino
July 24, 2002

TC 3700, AU 3738

Brian E. Pellegrino


BRUCE SNOW
PRIMARY EXAMINER